HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF APPLETON

A LANARK COUNTY VILLAGE

BY

JACK BROWN

RIVERSIDE PRESS

ALLORYTOWN

1973

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Appleton is a pretty little village four miles downstream from Carleton Place. To reach it, follow the byway east from Highway #29 for about a mile.

It was one of the early settlements of Ramsay Township in the County of Lanark. A small cascade, at that time known as Apple Tree Falls, attracted the pioneers and provided a source of good waterpower.

In 1823 the Teskey family of Rathkeale in Limerick emigrated to Canada and took up land near Apple Tree Falls on the Mississippi River. Three sons, then young men, began to develop the waterpower. Joseph was 24 years of age, and with his brothers, Robert (22) and John (20), built a small saw and grist mill at the falls. For the next thirty years the hamlet which grew up there was known as Teskeyville. By the mid 1850's the village combined Joseph Teskey's gristmill, Robert Teskey's saw mill and Albert Teskey's general store and post office. At the time when the post office was established, the name of the village was changed to Appleton.

About forty years ago an aldtimer recalled memories of Appleton in a published article REMINISCENCES OF APPLETON

"About the year 1820 John Teskey and his wife and seven children (the eighth remaining behind as he intended going into the church) came out to Canada from Limerick, Ireland, and settled near where the village of Appleton now stands. I believe the farm is now occupied by one of the Neilsons, who

is either a great grandson or a great great grandson of the above John Teskey. I believe it first they made potash and I have been told they had to take it to Prescott to sell, bringing back all their needed groceries.

Pretty soon they built a mill to grind flour and feed on the site where the present mill stands. Part of the foundation of the present mill is part of the original.

"Joseph, the eldest son, afterwards ran the grist mill, and Robert, the second son, went across the river and built a sawmill which stood at the foot of the present private road into the woollen mill yard. He used to buy standing timber and have men cut it and bring it down the Mississippi. Sometime before 1864, his two oldest sons, John Adam and William Rufus, decided to go into the woollen trade. And built the older part of the present mill where the newer part stands. Crowe had a tannery. When the woollen mill was built, there were very few houses in the village, and all the men employed on the building had to live in it. I can remember as a child seeing the large room over the kitchen part of the Robert Teskey house with beds all around the wall. It looked almost like a ward in an infirmary. To go back, the Dulmage family came about the same time. Gerald Dulmage, father of Richard and Lawrence, was married to a half sister of Mrs. John Teskey's. The Dulmages settled on a farm about a mile from the village down the river. Afterward, Lawrence had a farm on one side of the road and Richard on the other. Lawrence married a Miss Dulmage from near Prescott, and Richard a Miss Murphy who was the first white child born in Carleton Place.

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remember as a child going to William Wilson's to see his flowers, and I know a that time his family was pretty well grown up

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"There were seven Mrs. Teskeys in the
village and now there is not one, nor any
Dulmages or Wilsons or many Keiths

"I think I have spun my yarn long enough
and if I have made any mistakes I am sorry
ONE INTERESTED"

APPLETON IN 1857

CRAM, L. & P., tannery
HENDRON John, shoemaker
KANNO, Martin, blacksmith
MILLER, Duncan, waggonmaker
SULLIVAN, P., blacksmith
TESKEY, Albert, postmaster and general
store keeper
TESKEY, Jacob, grist mill
TESKEY, Robert, s w mill
WILSON Andrew farmer
YOUNG, William, teller

APPLETON IN 1871

ADAMSON, Mrs Mary, milliner
ARTHUR, Thomas, general merchant
BERIMAN, Michael, hotelkeeper
BROWN, John, sawyer
CANVITE, Charles, carpenter
CALVIN, George, waggonmaker
CRAN, Peter, tanner
CUTHBERT, James, school teacher
CUTHBERT, William E. & Son, storekeepers
DRINKWATER, Charles T. & Son, manufacturer of tweeds, flannels and blankets
EDWARDS, William, corn miller
FORBES, Richard, foreman
FUNERTON, James, spinner
GOODBODY, George, dyer
HALL, Francis, shoemaker
HART, James, farmer
HEPWORTH, Henry, of L. Routh & Co.
KEYS, Thomas, shoemaker
LEATH, John, saddler
McKAY, William, mason
McNEELY, Thomas, blacksmith
MILLER, Duncan, waggonmaker
MONROE, Donald, tanner
L. ROUTH & Co., manufacturers of tweeds, flannels, blankets etc.
ROUTH, Lancelot jun, of L. Routh & Co.
ROUTH, Lancelot sen, of L. Routh & Co.
SULLIVAN, Michael, blacksmith
TESKEY, Adam, mill owner
TESKEY, Albert, postmaster
TESKEY, John
TESKEY, Milton and Franklin, proprietors of tannery and grist mill
TESKEY, Robert, saw mill
TESKEY, Rufus, reporter
WILSON, Andrew, farmer
WILSON, William, carpenter and farmer
YOUNG, William, tailor
YOUNG, James, tanner

APPLETON IN 1880

Appleton contains three stores, two churches, two hotels, a grade& school, telegraph office, saw mill, grist mill, carding mill, and woollen factory. A number of waggon and blacksmith shops and a population exceeding 300. The location on the Mississippi is a good one, and the waterpower afforded by that stream is one of the finest description. In the early days this was a great Indian camping ground and ancient relics abound to connect the memories of the dying race with the new dominant "pale-face". The place is now considered one of the most pleasantly located on the continent, and has become quite a popular resort for pleasure seekers. Stages to Carleton Place twice daily, fare and return 25 cents. Mail daily.

APPLETON IN 1885

ARTHUR, Thomas C., general store and postmaster
BEATTY, John, blacksmith
DUNFIELD, Samuel, hotel
GREEN, John, boots and shoes
KITTS, Edward, flour mill
LEITH, Benjamin, harnessmaker
MILLER, Duncan, carriage and waggonmaker
TESKEY, Albert, justice of the peace
TESKEY, J.A., woollen mill
TESKEY, Milton, flour and carding mill
WILSON, Robert, hog power manufacturer

THE APPLETON CHURCHES

A century ago, Appleton had two churches. After 1925 it had one. Now it has some.

The Presbyterians [Auld Kirk] first met in the schoolhouse on the 11th Concession. Revs. Dr. Bannatt preached to them there. Upon his death a new pastoral charge of Ashton and Appleton was created by the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew. The roll of the congregation was set up at a meeting held by Rev. A. A. Scott on October 12, 1899 at which time 44 members took dismiss from Almonte and one new member, George W. Thom, was received. At the communion the next day, the elders officiating were William Lang and John Baird.

The ministers serving from Ashton were Rev. J. R. Stewart, Rev. G. T. Heyne, and Archibald Henderson. A manse was bought in 1912 and the ministers henceforth resided in Appleton. These were Rev. A. D. Turner, and Rev. George H. Thomas.

The Methodists were originally connected with the Carleton Place Methodist Charge. A frame church was built but was destroyed by fire in 1887. The stone one which replaced it, was constructed on the same site two years later.

In 1925 the two congregations united, and the stone Methodist Church was adopted for use. Appleton was temporarily attached to Carleton Place, but in 1926 became part of a charge with Trinity, Almonte, and since then has been served by ministers from there.

Up until World War I, the ministers were Rev. J. T. Blanchard, Rev. A. J. Terrill, Rev. A. McLauchlin and Rev. G. McQuade.

THE APPLETON BRIDGE

Albert Teskey built the first bridge in Appleton in 1858 at a cost of $175. At that time a good deal of timber was floated down the river, and the bridge had to let it by. Consequently there were five long spans making a total length of about 245 feet. The bridge was built on wooden piers filled with stone, and each span was strengthened in the centre by needle beam and braces. The stringers were pine, and they were covered with pine planks three inches thick, and joined in the centre and planed down with wooden pins. As a result, the structure did not last very long.

Eight years later, Dennis Sullivan rebuilt the bridge, replacing the pine stringers with cedar, and covered them with four-inch cedar planks. In the course of time they got worn, so a covering of three-inch planks was placed on top. They had a tendency to rot the cedar.

About 1890 the heels of the braces were decaying, so a bent was placed under the needle-beam of each span. These bents were constructed by bolting a sill on the rock bottom, and posts were mortised into the sills and also into the needle-beams above. They were braced from the bottom of one post to the top of the next one from the lower side, and the ice-breaker acted as a brace against them downstream.

In the spring of 1899, a large cake of ice about 20 feet long floated menacingly down the river. Frozen to it was about three feet of snow-mat from the Munro's Rapids pile half a mile upstream. It filled the space between the pier and the bent, and swept away the ice-breaker and two upper posts. The pathmaster repaired the damage

by placing a long timber across the span on top of the bridge and chaining it to the stringer. Two days later the bridge gave way when a rig was making the crossing.

The old bridge was replaced by a new iron one, but in recent years it has undergone a facelifting. Former villagers might not even recognise it now.

THE APPLETON POST OFFICE

The post office at Appleton was established on July 7, 1857. At that time the name of the village was changed from Teskey ville. The first postmaster was Albert Teskey, who retained the position for almost 26 years. The post office continued for 113 years during which there were 15 masters. It closed on January 9, 1970. Today the mail comes to green postal boxes near the store.

Here is the list of postmasters at the village:

Albert Teskey	1857-1883	25yr. 11mo
Thomas C. Arthur	1883-1888	4yr. 9mo.
John W. Munro	1888-1889	11mo.
William Garvin	1889-1912	22yr. 7mo
Mrs Susan Garvin	1912-1913	11mo
John A. McGregor	1914-1931	16yr. 1mo
David McNeely	1931-1937	5yr. 5mo
Robert A. Beard	1937-1939	2yr. 2mo
William R. Lyons	1939-1946	7yr. 2mo.
Mrs Jessie J. Lyons	1946-1949	3yr. 3mo.
Mrs Mildred Gambell	1950-1953	3yr. 5mo.
Mrs Violet Gladish	1954-1955	1yr. 4mo
Mrs Sladee Dowdall	1955-1955	1mo.
Mrs Mildred Gambell	1955-1960	5yr. 1mo.
Mrs Kathleen Neil	1961-1970	9yr. 4mo.

THE APPLETON SCHOOL

The first school was built of logs about 1829. A second log school replaced it in 1856. The annual reports of the Local Superintendent gave this information about S.S #1 Ramsay, which was the Appleton School:

Report	Type	Built	Teacher
1854	log	1828	Edward M. Mahon
1855	"	--	Peter Comie
1856		1829	Peter Comie
1857	"	--	Peter Comie
1858		--	Peter Comie
1859		1856	Peter Comie
1860		--	Peter Comie
1861	"	--	John McAdam
1862		--	John McAdam
1863		--	W. R. Teskey
1864	"	--	Wm. H. Patterson
1865	"	--	Wm. H. Patterson
1866	"	--	John Hamilton
1867	"	--	A. W. Struthers
1868		-	A. W. Struthers
1869	"	--	A. T. Rothwell
1870	"	--	James Cuthbert

Later a two-room brick school was built to replace the log one. In 1897 the Public School Inspector gave this report based on his visit at that time:

"An excellent brick school house of two divisions, but getting out of repair through continued neglect. Floor will soon need renewing. Desks cumbersome and uncomfortable. School should be reseated with modern desks Outhouses need cleaning. Attendance is increasing and the school work as well done."

This old brick school continued in use until a few years ago. It is now a museum.

N APPLETON DIARY RAMDOM REMINISCENCES

1897 Mr Baker, proprietor of the Appleton House, has made several improvements and is in a position to cater to the wants of the public The name of the house has been changed and will hereafter be known as Bay View House

1898 James Feaver has purchased a new horse to assist in carrying Her Majesty's mails.

1899 William Bont of Brockville is the cheesemaker in our factory, which opened yesterd y

1900 Fire destroyed the Village Hall and a vinact store adjoining it Attempts to save the buildings were fruitless because no fire appliances were at hand, except buckets.

1901 Boyd Caldwell & Co have a staff of electrical men engaged in wiring the mills and installing an olectric plant

1902 Whor Mr Spearman was driving from Carleton Place yesterd y, his horse took suddenly sick and died on the road before assistance could be procured.

1903 The grist mill property has changed hands again, Messrs Brown and Sons having sold to Messrs Boyd Caldwell & Co

1904 Thomas C Arthur has sold the hotel to Wellington Spearman, the present proprietor

1905 We are ple sed to notice the name of Miss Ethel Ashman of this place at the head of the list in the Perth Model School exam inations with 839 marks out of a possible 1100

1906 Wool w nted We are prepared to buy all

the fleece wool offered--washed or unwashed ---for which we guarantee to pay the highest market price in cash or trade. J & McGregor Appleton.

1907 The box social in the hall was a very successful event. Ethel Scott had the honour of bringing the box that brought the highest price, £1 20. The hall was so crowded at supper time some people had to eat in the dressing room.

1908 The first football match of the season was played between the C P H S team and the Appleton boys, resulting in a victory for the home boys by a score of 6 to 0. Edna Buchan was en important referee.

1909 A bold attempt to burglarize McGregor's store resulted in the theft of a couple of pairs of boots, a hat, and some other articles, as well as all the loose change in the till.

1910 Mr T. A. Buchan, having removed permanently to Smiths Falls, advertised an auction sale of household furniture and effects here at the village.

1911 The annual picnic in connection with S.S. will Ramsay will be held on James Wilson's grove on Saturday. Football and baseball matches, besides the usual races by the pupils, are being arranged.

1912 A Ladies Aid was formed with Mrs. A. Cole as president, Mrs R. Baird as treasurer, and Miss Irene Symes as secretary.

1913 William Fuller who has been in the woollen mill for the last thirteen years is leaving this week to take a position in the Toy mill at Perth.

1914 [illegible] r to r hes [illegible] liv [illegible] the Methodist Church and the children are doing well under the organist and leader, Mrs D Fumerton.

1915 At a meeting of the patrons of the Appleton cheese factory, Miss Maggie Wilson was appointed secretary pro tem in lieu of her father, the late James Wilson.

1916 The lawn social on St Andrew's Church lawn grounds was a decided success. The weather was fine and the attendance large. The proceeds amounted to $90.

1917 Robert Beard has sold his farm for $8,000 to Arthur Fender who has been in the west for some years.

1918 The Caldwell Woollen Mill is very busy making puttees. They send out about 1,500 day to the women of the village to finish.

1919 The reception given for our returned soldiers was a grand success. The crowd was the largest ever seen in our beautiful little village at a social gathering. Rings and lockets were presented.

1920 Mr McLeod has come to the village to take the position as superintendent of the Mississippi Woollen Mills.

1921 The new granolithic sidewalk is a great improvement to our street, and we hope more will be laid in the near future.

1922 Robert Aitken had the unfortune to lose four of his best milking cows. The animals were thought to have been poisoned from the lead in old paint cans which were in the pasture.

APPLETON TODAY

A paved sidero d leads e st from Highway 29, p^sses the golf course on the right, and soon runs by the Mississippi shore.

Across the river, you see a l^rge stone Confederation period house with two gables along the front. This was the farmhouse of Andrew Ward, a Lanark County native who was born in 1825.

The road takes bend to the left and good view of the village ppe rs.

Summerhill, a fine frame house painted white, stands on the left. It was built by William Wilson, farmer and cabinetmaker.

Up a sidestreet on the left, there is an old log house, with a log barn nearby. It is the only house showing log construction within the village proper, although you see several sheds and barns.

Then comes the home of Ed Bowdrii, now 87, who has lived in Appleton nearly sixty years and knows the village history inside out. He used to farm but is now retired.

Two beautiful stone houses built by the Teskey brothers follow. The Albert Teskey house is a one-and-a-half storey stone building with gables on the front and prominent cut quoins. It may date from the 1860's. The log outbuildings are maintained in excellent condition. On downriver hit stands the Robert Teskey house. It is two and-a-half storey stone house of rather plain style, and has three windows on the second storey facade. It was built about 1850. Originally it had an upper and lower verandah running across the front. This

house was built into a hillside so that the bedroom windows at the rear are in line with the back lawn.

Nearly opposite, in the river itself, are the remains of the Mississippi Woollen Mills, destroyed by fire in 1950. Robert Teskey built the first factory in 1862. An addition was constructed about 1880 by Adam Teskey. Most of the stone walls still stand and show the general features of the mill pre-saring run off cascades around the ruins as it tumbles over the eight-foot drop at the dam. The new mill, built on the west shore, is run by the Collins who own the old Teskey homes as well

When you cross the bridge to the east shore, you pass the old brick store on the left. It was built by Thomas Arthur and is now operated by the Gambells. The massive front windows and double upstairs doorway make the front rise unbroken. Inside, there is a country store atmosphere. The old pine floorboards show the wear of countless feet, and the knots rise in little bumps. Red and blue coloured glass above the door remind you of olden days

Diagonally opposite the store is a board and batten house built by Duncan Miller, carriage manufacturer, who was born in 1831.

Across the road to the north is the United Church, built over eighty years ago. It has not been used for services in recent years, and for some time has been a private residence. An unusual tower of grey-green woodwork and shingles complement the stonework, Mrs Box has been most successful in preserving the dignity of the old building.

Next to the church is the Joseph Teskey

house, built in 1844. The style is modified Scottish Georgian. The fanlight over the front door is particularly good. A rambling verandah with white posts wraps around the front and sides. Wrought-iron surmounts a stone fence at the front. And there are lilacs and cedars nearby. A stone wing at the side used to be the kitchen and servant quarters in the old days. Carriages were kept in the spaces behind the three arched doorways of the wing. The house is now known as "Burnbank".

The road takes a hairpin turn and then finally winds its way to the Almonte-Ashton road. At the corner is the brick school S.S. #11. It was closed about three years ago, and the pupils now go to Almonte or Carleton Place. In the summer months the building becomes the Appleton museum.

Southeast of the school there is a striking log house kept in good repair.

North of the school is the stone house of the Struthers family. Robert Struthers, the original settler, came in 1820. The house, with a verandah on two sides, was possibly built about 1850. It is called "Rocky Ridge".

The people of the village of Appleton have a pride in their community. It used to be a pretty neat. It still is.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BOND The Ottawa Country, 1968

McGILL A Pioneer History of the County of Lanark, 1968

Carleton Place Herald.

LOVELL Canada Directory, 1857

Illustrated Atlas of Lanark, 1880

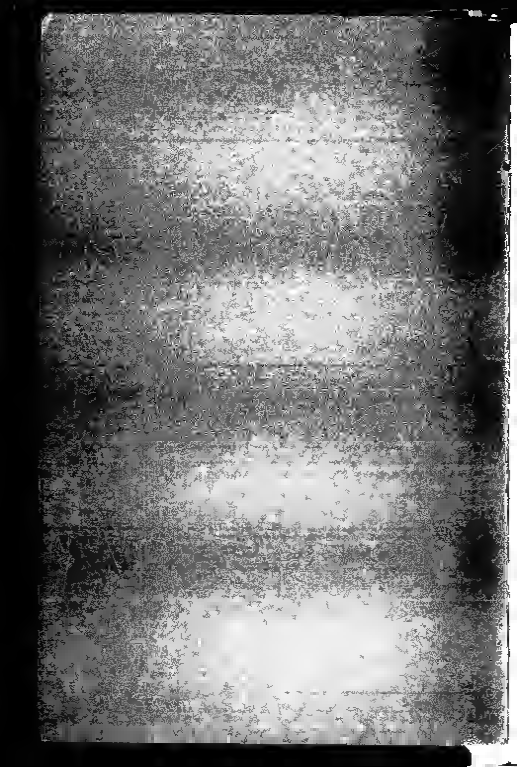
POLK Ontario Gazetteer and Directory, 1865

LOVELL Canada Directory, 1871

Public Archives of Canada

Public Archives of Ontario

Canada Post Office



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Godes, and many more. And we must not forget Hall, who was the shoemaker in a little shop around the bend of the road just beyond Milton Teskey's house. There was also a blacksmith and a wonderful whitewasher who was so careful one hardly needed to cover the furniture while he worked. A family of Rouths lived in Appleton for a time and afterwards became large woollen mill people either at or near Coburg.

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"I think I have spun my yarn long enough and if I have made any mistakes I am sorry. ...ONE INTERESTED"

APPLETON IN 1857

GRAM, J. & P., tannery
HEUSTON, John, shoemaker
LANHO, Martin, blacksmith
MILLER, Duncan, waggonmaker
SULLIVAN, T., blacksmith
TESKEY, Albert, postmaster and general storekeeper
TESKEY, Joseph, grist mill
TESKEY, Robert, saw mill
WILSON, Andrew, farmer
YOUNG, William, tailor

APPLETON IN 1871

ADAMSON, Mrs Mary, milliner
ARTHUR, Thomas, general merchant
BRENNAN, Michael, hotelkeeper
BROWN, John, sawyer
CANVITH, Charles, carpentor
CALVIN, George, waggonmaker
CRAM, Peter, tannor
CUTHBERT, James, school teacher
CUTHBERT, William F. & Son, storekeepers
DRINKWATER, Charles T. & Son, manufacturer of tweeds, flannels and blankets
EDWARDS, William, corn miller
FOREST, Richard, foreman
FUNERTON, James, spinner
GOODBODY, George, dyer
HALL, Francis, shoemaker
HART, James, farmer
HEPWORTH, Henry, of L. Routh & Co.
KEYS, Thomas, shoomaker
LEATH, John, saddler
McEWAN, William, mason
McNEELY, Thomas, blacksmith
MILLER, Duncan, waggonmaker
MONROE, Donald, tanner
L. ROUTH & Co., manufacturers of tweeds, flannels, blankets etc.
ROUTH, Lancelot jun, of L. Routh & Co.
ROUTH, Lancelot sen, of L. Routh & Co.
SULLIVAN, Michael, blacksmith
TESKEY, Adam, mill owner
TESKEY, Albert, postmastor
TESKEY, John
TESKEY, Milton and Franklin, proprietors of tannery and grist mill
TESKEY, Robert, saw mill
TESKEY, Rufus, reporter
WILSON, Andrew, farmer
WILSON, William, carpenter and farmer
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APPLETON IN 1880

Appleton contains three stores, two churches, two hotels, a graded school, telegraph office, saw mill, grist mill, carding mill, and woollen factory, a number of waggon and blacksmith shops and a population exceeding 300. The location on the Mississippi is a good one, and the waterpower afforded by that stream is one of the finest description. In the early days this was a great Indian camping ground and ancient relics abound to connect the memories of the dying race with the now dominant "pale-face". The place is now considered one of the most pleasantly located on the continent, and has become quite a popular resort for pleasure seekers. Stages to Carleton Place twice daily, fare and return 25 cents. Mail daily.

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A century ago, Appleton had two churches. After 1925 it had one. Now it has none.

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THE APPLETON BRIDGE

Albert Teskey built the first bridge in Appleton in 1858 at a cost of $175. At that time a good deal of timber was floated down the river, and the bridge had to last it by. Consequently there were five long spans making a total length of about 245 feet. The bridge was built on wooden piers filled with stone, and each span was strengthened in the centre by needle-beams and braces. The stringers were pine, and they were covered with pine planks three inches thick, and joined in the centre and pinned down with wooden pins. As a result, the structure did not last very long.

Eight years later, Dennis Sullivan rebuilt the bridge, replacing the pine stringers with cedar, and covered them with four-inch cedar planks. In the course of time they got worn, so a covering of three-inch planks was placed on top. They had a tendency to rot the cedar.

About 1890 the heels of the braces were decaying, so a bent was placed under the needle-beam of each span. These bents were constructed by bolting a sill on the rock bottom, and posts were mortised into the sills and also into the needle-beams above. They were braced from the bottom of one post to the top of the next one from the lower side, and the ice-breaker acted as a brace against them downstream.

In the spring of 1899, a large cake of ice about 20 feet long floated menacingly down the river. Frozen to it was about three feet of saw-dust from the Munro's Rapids pile half a mile upstream. It filled the space between the pier and the bent, and swept away the ice-breaker and two upper posts. The pathmaster repaired the damage

by placing a long timber across the span on top of the bridge and chaining it to the stringer. Two days later the bridge gave way when a rig was making the crossing.

The old bridge was replaced by a new iron one, but in recent years it has undergone a facelifting. Former villagers might not even recognize it now.

THE APPLETON POST OFFICE

The post office at Appleton was established on July 7, 1857. At that time the name of the village was changed from Teskeyville. The first postmaster was Albert Teskey, who retained the position for almost 26 years. The post office continued for 113 years during which there were 15 masters. It closed on January 9, 1970. Today the mail comes to green postal boxes near the store

Here is the list of postmasters at the village:

Albert Teskey	1857-1883	25yr.11mo
Thomas G. Arthur	1883-1888	4yr. 9mo.
John M. Munro	1888-1889	11mo.
William Garvin	1889-1912	22yr. 7mo.
Mrs Susan Garvin	1912-1913	11mo.
John A. McGregor	1913-1931	18yr. 1mo.
David McNeely	1931-1937	5yr. 5mo
Robert M. Baird	1937-1939	2yr. 2mo.
William R. Lyons	1939-1946	7yr. 2mo
Mrs Jessie J. Lyons	1946-1949	3yr. 3mo.
Mrs Mildred Gambell	1950-1953	3yr. 5mo.
Mrs Violet Gladish	1954-1955	1yr. 4mo.
Mrs Gladys Dowdall	1955-1955	1mo.
Mrs Mildred Gambell	1955-1960	5yr. 1mo.
Mrs Kathleen Neal	1961-1970	9yr. 4mo.

THE APPLETON SCHOOL

The first school was built of logs about 1829. A second log school replaced it in 1856. The annual reports of the Local Superintendent gave this information about S.S.#11 Ramsay, which was the Appleton School.

Report	Type	Built	Teacher
1854	log	1828	Edward B. Mahon
1855	"	--	Peter Comie
1856	"	1829	Peter Comie
1857	"	--	Peter Comie
1858	"	--	Peter Comie
1859	"	1856	Peter Comie
1860	"	--	Peter Comie
1861	"	--	John McAdam
1862	"	--	John McAdam
1863	"	--	W. R. Teskey
1864	"	--	Wm. H. Patterson
1865	"	--	Wm. H. Patterson
1866	"	--	John Hamilton
1867	"	--	A. W. Struthers
1868	"	--	A. W. Struthers
1869	"	--	A. T. Rothwell
1870	"	--	James Cuthbert

Later a two-room brick school was built to replace the log one. In 1897 the Public School Inspector gave this report based on his visit at that time.

"An excellent brick school house of two divisions, but getting out of repair through continued neglect. Floor will soon need renewing. Desks cumbersome and uncomfortable. School should be reseated with modern desks. Outhouses need cleaning. Attendance is increasing and the school work is well done."

This old brick school continued in use until a few years ago. It is now a museum.

APPLETON DIARY - RANDOM REMINISCENCES

1897 Mr Baker, proprietor of the Appleton House, has made several improvements and is in a position to cater to the wants of the public. The name of the house has been changed and will hereafter be known as Bay View House.

1898 James Peever has purchased a new horse to assist in carrying Her Majesty's mails.

1899 William Bont of Brockville is the cheesemaker in our factory, which opened yesterday.

1900 Fire destroyed the Village Hall and a vacant store adjoining it. Attempts to save the buildings were fruitless because no fire appliances were at hand, except buckets.

1901 Boyd Caldwell & Co have a staff of electricians engaged in wiring the mills and installing an electric plant.

1902 When Mr Spearman was driving from Carleton Place yesterday, his horse took suddenly sick and died on the road before assistance could be procured.

1903 The grist mill property has changed hands again, Messrs Brown and Sons having sold to Messrs Boyd Caldwell & Co.

1904 Thomas C. Arthur has sold the hotel to Wellington Spearman, the present proprietor.

1905 We are pleased to notice the name of Miss Ethel Ashman of this place at the head of the list in the Perth Model School examinations with 839 marks out of a possible 1100.

1906 Wool wanted. We are prepared to buy all

the fleece wool offered---washed or unwashed ---for which we guarantee to pay the highest market price in cash or trade. J.A.McGregor, Appleton.

1907 The box social in the hall was a very successful event. Ethel Scott had the honour of bringing the box that brought the highest price, $1.80. The hall was so crowded at supper time some people had to eat in the dressing room.

1908 The first football match of the season was played between the C P R S. team and the Appleton boys, resulting in a victory for the home boys by a score of 1 to 0. Eden Hueston was an impartial referee.

1909 A bold attempt to burglarize McGregor's store resulted in the theft of a couple of pairs of boots, a hat, and some other articles, as well as all the loose change in the till.

1910 Mr T. A. Hueston, having removed permanently to Smiths Falls, advertised an auction sale of household furniture and effects here at the village.

1911 The annual picnic in connection with S.S.#1 Ramsay will be held in James Wilson's grove on Saturday. Football and baseball matches, besides the usual races by the pupils, are being arranged.

1912 A Ladies' Aid was formed with Mrs J. A. Code as president, Mrs R. Baird as treasurer, and Miss Irene Syme as secretary.

1913. William Fuller who has been in the woollen mill for the last thirteen years is leaving this week to take a position in the Tay mill at Perth.

1914. A junior choir has been organized in the Methodist Church, and the children are doing well under the organist and leader, Mrs D. Fumerton.

1915. At a meeting of the patrons of the Appleton cheese factory, Miss Maggie Wilson was appointed secretary in lieu of her father, the late James Wilson.

1916. The lawn social on St Andrew's Church lawn grounds was a decided success. The weather was fine and the attendance large. The proceeds amounted to $90.

1917. Robert Baird has sold his farm for $8,000 to a Mr Fender who has been in the West for some years.

1918. The Caldwell Woollen Mill is very busy making puttees. They send out about 1,500 a day to the women of the village to finish.

1919. The reception given for our returned soldiers was a grand success. The crowd was the largest ever seen in our beautiful little village at a social gathering. Rings and lockets were presented.

1920. Mr MacLeod has come to the village to take the position as superintendent of the Massissippi Woollen Mills.

1921. The new granolithic sidewalk is a great improvement to our street, and we hope more will be laid in the near future.

1922. Robert Aitken had the misfortune to lose four of his best milking cows. The animals were thought to have been poisoned from the lead in old paint cans which were in the pasture.

APPLETON TODAY

A paved sidereed leads east from Highway 29, passes the golf course on the right, and soon runs by the Mississippi shore.

Across the river, you see a large stone Confederation-period house with two gables along the front. This was the farmhouse of Andrew Beard, a Lanark County native who was born in 1825.

The road takes a bend to the left and a good view of the village appears.

Summerhill, a fine frame house painted white, stands on the left. It was built by William Watson, farmer and cabinetmaker.

Up a sidestreet on the left, there is an old log house, with a log barn nearby. It is the only house showing log construction within the village proper, although you see several sheds and barns.

Then comes the home of Ed Dowdall, now 87, who has lived in Appleton nearly sixty years and knows the village history inside out. He used to farm but is now retired.

Two beautiful stone houses built by the Teskey brothers follow. The Albert Teskey house is a one-and-a-half storey stone building with a gable on the façade and prominent cut quoins. It may date from the 1860's. The log outbuildings are maintained in excellent condition. On downriver a bit stands the Robert Teskey house. It is a two-and-a-half storey stone house of rather plain style, and has three windows on the second storey façade. It was built about 1850. Originally it had an upper and lower verandah running across the front. This

house was built into a hillside so that the bedroom windows at the rear are in line with the back lawn.

Nearly opposite, in the river itself, are the remains of the Mississippi Woollen Mills, destroyed by fire in 1950. Robert Teskey built the first factory in 1862. An addition was constructed about 1880 by Adam Teskey. Most of the stone walls still stand and show the general features of the mill. The spring run-off cascades around the ruins as it tumbles over the eight-foot drop at the dam. The new mill, built on the west shore, is run by the Collies who own the old Teskey homes as well.

When you cross the bridge to the east shore, you pass the old brick store on the left. It was built by Thomas Arthur and is now operated by the Cambells. The massive front windows and double upstairs doorway make the front view unique. Inside, there is a country store atmosphere. The old pine floorboards show the wear of countless feet, and the knots rise in little bumps. Red and blue coloured glass above the door remind you of olden days.

Diagonally opposite the store is a board and batten house built by Duncan Miller, carriage manufacturer, who was born in 1831.

Across the road to the north is the United Church, built over eighty years ago. It has not been used for services in recent years, and for some time has been a private residence. An unusual tower of gray-green woodwork and shingles complement the stonework, Mrs Box has been most successful in preserving the dignity of the old building.

Next to the church is the Joseph Teskey

house, built in 1844. The style is modified Scottish Georgian. The fanlight over the front door is particularly good. A rambling verandah with white posts wraps around the front and sides. Wrought-iron surmounts a stone fence at the front, and there are lilacs and cedars nearby. A stone wing at the side used to be the kitchen and servant quarters in the old days. Carriages were kept in the spaces behind the three arched doorways of the wing. The house is now known as "Burnbank".

The road takes a hairpin turn and then finally winds its way to the Almonte-Ashton road. At the corner is the brick school S.S.#11. It was closed about three years ago, and the pupils now go to Almonte or Carleton Place. In the summer months the building becomes the Appleton museum.

Southeast of the school there is a striking log house kept in good repair.

North of the school is the stone house of the Struthers family. Robert Struthers, the original settler, came in 1830. The house, with a verandah on two sides, was possibly built about 1850. It is called "Rocky Ridge".

The people of the village of Appleton have a pride in their community. It used to be a pretty spot. It still is.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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LOVELL: Canada Directory, 1857.

Illustrated Atlas of Lanark, 1880.

POLK: Ontario Gazetteer and Directory, 1885.

LOVELL: Canada Directory, 1871.

Public Archives of Canada.

Public Archives of Ontario.

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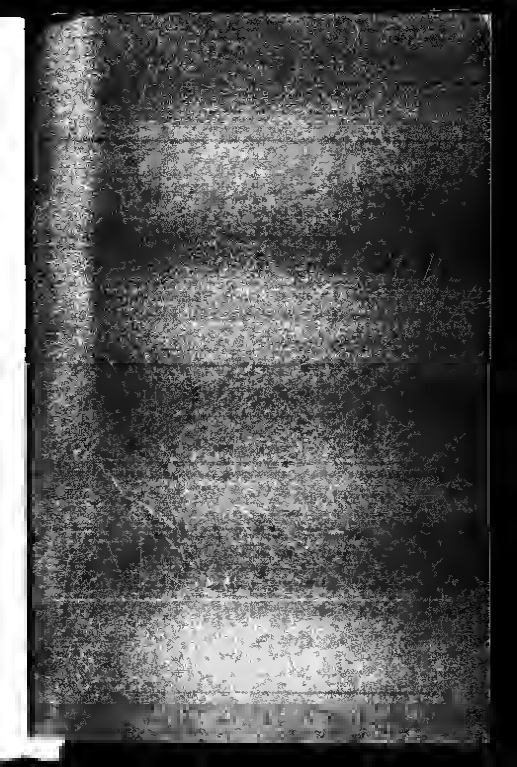

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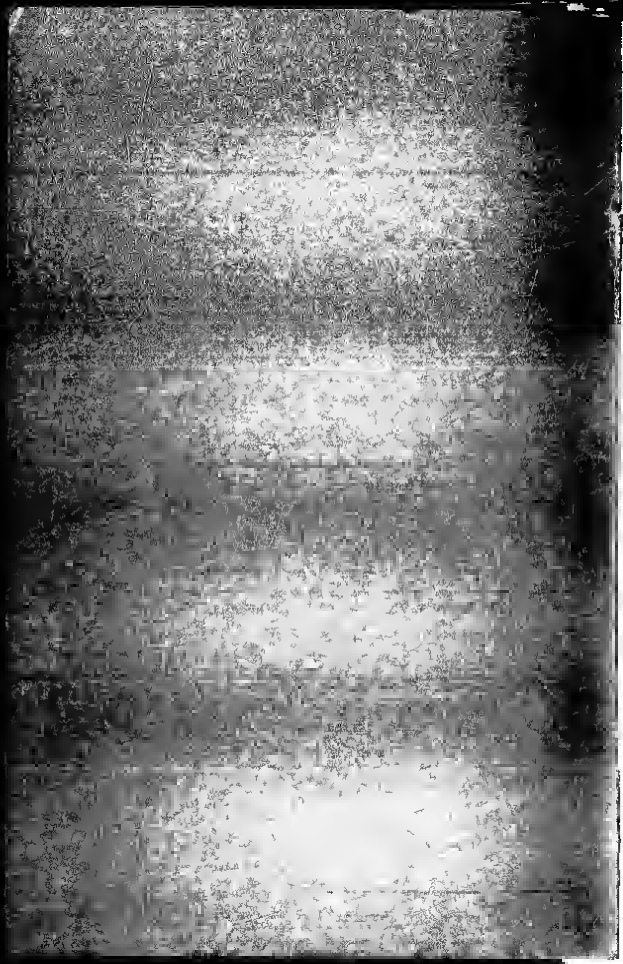

HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF APPLETON

A LANARK COUNTY VILLAGE

BY

JACK BROWN

RIVERSIDE PRESS

MALLORYTOWN

1973

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HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF APPLETON

Appleton is a pretty little village four miles downstream from Carleton Place. To reach it, follow the byway east from Highway #29 for about a mile.

It was one of the early settlements of Ramsay Township in the County of Lanark. A small cascade, at that time known as Apple Tree Falls, attracted the pioneers and provided a source of good waterpower.

In 1823 the Teskey family of Rathkeale in Limerick emigrated to Canada and took up land near Apple Tree Falls on the Mississippi River. Three sons, then young men, began to develop the waterpower. Joseph was 24 years of age, and with his brothers, Robert (22) and John (20), built a small saw and grist mill at the falls. For the next thirty years the hamlet which grew up there was known as Teskeyville. By the mid 1850's the village contained Joseph Teskey's gristmill, Robert Teskey's saw mill and Albert Teskey's general store and post office. At the time when the post office was established, the name of the village was changed to Appleton.

About forty years ago an oldtimer recalled memories of Appleton in a published article REMINISCENCES OF APPLETON:

"About the year 1820 John Teskey and his wife and seven children (the eighth remaining behind as he intended going into the church) came out to Canada from Limerick, Ireland, and settled near where the village of Appleton now stands. I believe the farm is now occupied by one of the Neilsons, who

is either a great grandson or a great great grandson of the above John Teskey. I believe at first they made potash and I have been told they had to take it to Prescott to sell, bringing back all their needed groceries.

"Pretty soon they built a mill to grind flour and feed on the site where the present mill stands. Part of the foundation of the present mill is part of the original.

"Joseph, the eldest son, afterwards ran the grist mill, and Robert, the second son, went across the river and built a sawmill which stood at the foot of the present private road into the woollen mill yard. He used to buy standing timber and have men cut it and bring it down the Mississippi. Sometime before 1864 his two oldest sons, John Adam and William Rufus, decided to go into the woollen trade, and built the older part of the present mill. Where the newer part stands, Grams had a tannery. When the woollen mill was built, there were very few houses in the village, and all the men employed on the building had to live in it. I can remember as a child seeing the large room over the kitchen part of the Robert Teskey house with beds all around the wall. It looked almost like a ward in an infirmary. To go back, the Dulmage family came about the same time. Gerald Dulmage, father of Richard and Lawrence, was married to a half sister of Mrs. John Teskey's. The Dulmages settled on a farm about a mile from the village down the river. Afterward, Lawrence had a farm on one side of the road and Richard on the other. Lawrence married a Miss Dulmage from near Prescott, and Richard a Miss Morphy who was the first white child born in Carleton Place.

"I do not know when the Wilsons and Bairds came, but both families were early settlers. I

remember as a child going to William Wilson's to see his flowers, and I know at that time his family was pretty well grown up.

"There were John, Andrew, William and Robert, and one or two more, and one daughter Mrs. Cram. Uncle Andrew Wilson had a farm on the opposite side of the river, and he married a Miss Bryson who was born at sea, and had as far as I know three children: Mary, Maggie (afterwards Mrs. Newman) and James.

"For many years there stood a long frame building just outside the present gates of the mill property. One end was used for a store and the other as a dwelling. I remember William Cuthbert, who was the grandson of Lady Mary Forbes, daughter of the Earl of Granada, keeping the store. I believe that Albert Teskey also kept it for a while. Later, say fifty-three or four years ago, Will and Jim Baird kept it for a few years.

"Another family across the bay below the mill was the Hart family. There were only four children, three daughters and a son. One daughter married Albert Teskey, another a Presbyterian minister, the third Miss Mary did not marry. Neither did the brother, Thomas. The family has died out as there were no grandchildren.

Another thing I remember was going to see the Indian camp down the river a little way. The same Indian family came many years. They had two children called after two of Robert Teskey's daughters, Caroline and Amanda. It was the only wigwam I ever saw.

"Another thing that impressed me was the span of mules that used to bring the mail from Carleton Place.

"It was also great amusement to watch the rafts of logs come down the river, especially when they were allowed to go over the dam instead of inside the boom logs and through the slide.

"It would not do not to speak of the Arthur family. Tom, the elder, kept the store many years, first in an old building and afterwards in the present brick store at the end of the bridge, not the small new one but the old wooden one. Young Tom, a nephew, kept it for years afterwards. The older Tom's sister kept the hotel for years, and they used to say you could get either a drink of whiskey, rum or gin all out of the same barrel.

"The Dulmages and Teskeys were all Church of England in the old country, but when they came to Appleton there was no church so they became Methodist, and after a while built the little frame church on the site of the present stone one. The frame one was burned about forty-five years ago. They were the Irish element of the village. Most of the other people were Scotch, and so good Presbyterians had their church up the hill. Now I believe they all worship in the stone church.

"I remember when the telegraph line came to the village, and the office was in the grocery store of John Teskey. His daughter, Lilly, was the operator. Appleton folks thought they were on the map then. Very different to when Robert Teskey's daughter died in Toronto, and the telegram came to Ottawa, then by messenger on horseback to Appleton.

"Besides all those mentioned there were the Stewarts, Neilsons, Thoms, McGregors and Turners and some more I have forgotten, lived on farms in the vicinity. When the mill started there were the Prouds, Greens, Huestons and

Codes, and many more. And we must not forget Hall, who was the shoemaker in a little shop around the bend of the road just beyond Milton Teskey's house. There was also a blacksmith and a wonderful whitewasher who was so careful one hardly needed to cover the furniture while he worked. A family of Rouths lived in Appleton for a time and afterwards became large woollen mill people either at or near Coburg.

"Appleton from about 1855 to 1865 must have been a much gayer place as there were so many young people then. The village was first called Teskeyville, but changed to Appleton because apples were found growing wild when the settlers first came over a century ago.

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Up until World War II, the ministers were Rev. J. T. Blanchard, Rev. A. J. Terrill, Rev. A. McLauchlin and Rev. G. McQuade.

THE APPLETON BRIDGE

Albert Teskey built the first bridge in Appleton in 1858 at a cost of $175. At that time a good deal of timber was floated down the river, and the bridge had to let it by. Consequently there were five long spans making a total length of about 245 feet. The bridge was built on wooden piers filled with stone, and each span was strengthened in the centre by needle-beam and braces. The stringers were pine, and they were covered with pine planks three inches thick, and joined in the centre and pinned down with wooden pins. As a result, the structure did not last very long.

Eight years later, Dennis Sullivan rebuilt the bridge, replacing the pine stringers with cedar, and covered them with four-inch cedar planks. In the course of time they got worn, so a covering of three-inch planks was placed on top. They had a tendency to rot the cedar.

About 1890 the heels of the braces were decaying, so a bent was placed under the needle-beam of each span. These bents were constructed by bolting a sill on the rock bottom, and posts were mortised into the sills and also into the needle-beams above. They were braced from the bottom of one post to the top of the next one from the lower side, and the ice-breaker acted as a brace against them downstream.

In the spring of 1899, a large cake of ice about 20 feet long floated menacingly down the river. Frozen to it was about three feet of saw-dust from the Munro's Rapids pile half a mile upstream. It filled the space between the pier and the bent, and swept away the ice-breaker and two upper posts. The pathmaster repaired the damage

by placing a long timber across the span on top of the bridge and chaining it to the stringer. Two days later the bridge gave way when a rig was making the crossing.

The old bridge was replaced by a new iron one, but in recent years it has undergone a facelifting. Former villagers might not even recognize it now.

THE APPLETON POST OFFICE

The post office at Appleton was established on July 7, 1857. At that time the name of the village was changed from Teskeyville. The first postmaster was Albert Teskey, who retained the position for almost 26 years. The post office continued for 113 years during which there were 15 masters. It closed on January 9, 1970. Today the mail comes to green postal boxes near the store.

Here is the list of postmasters at the village:

Albert Teskey	1857-1883	25yr.11mo.
Thomas C. Arthur	1883-1888	4yr. 9mo.
John M. Munro	1888-1889	11mo.
William Garvin	1889-1912	22yr. 7mo.
Mrs Susan Garvin	1912-1913	11mo.
John A. McGregor	1913-1931	18yr. 1mo.
David McNeely	1931-1937	5yr. 5mo.
Robert M. Baird	1937-1939	2yr. 2mo.
William R. Lyons	1939-1946	7yr. 2mo.
Mrs Jessie J. Lyons	1946-1949	3yr. 3mo.
Mrs Mildred Gambell	1950-1953	3yr. 5mo.
Mrs Violet Gladish	1954-1955	1yr. 4mo.
Mrs Sladeś Dowdall	1955-1955	1mo.
Mrs Mildred Gambell	1955-1960	5yr. 1mo.
Mrs Kathleen Neil	1961-1970	9yr. 4mo.

THE APPLETON SCHOOL

The first school was built of logs about 1829. A second log school replaced it in 1856. The annual reports of the Local Superintendent gave this information about S.S.#11 Ramsay, which was the Appleton School:

Report	Type	Built	Teacher
1854	log	1828	Edward B. Mahon
1855	"	--	Peter Comie
1856	"	1829	Peter Comie
1857	"	--	Peter Comie
1858	"	--	Peter Comie
1859	"	1856	Peter Comie
1860	"	--	Peter Comie
1861	"	--	John McAdam
1862	"	--	John McAdam
1863	"	--	W. R. Teskey
1864	"	--	Wm. H. Patterson
1865	"	--	Wm. H. Patterson
1866	"	--	John Hamilton
1867	"	--	A. W. Struthers
1868	"	--	A. W. Struthers
1869	"	--	A. T. Rothwell
1870	"	--	James Cuthbert

Later a two-room brick school was built to replace the log one. In 1897 the Public School Inspector gave this report based on his visit at that time:

"An excellent brick school house of two divisions, but getting out of repair through continued neglect. Floor will soon need renewing. Desks cumbersome and uncomfortable. School should be reseated with modern desks. Outhouses need cleaning. Attendance is increasing and the school work is well done."

This old brick school continued in use until a few years ago. It is now a museum.

AN APPLETON DIARY: RANDOM REMINISCENCES

1897: Mr Baker, proprietor of the Appleton House, has made several improvements and is in a position to cater to the wants of the public. The name of the house has been changed and will hereafter be known as Bay View House.

1898: James Peever has purchased a new horse to assist in carrying Her Majesty's mails.

1899: William Bont of Brockville is the cheesemaker in our factory, which opened yesterday.

1900: Fire destroyed the Village Hall and a vacant store adjoining it. Attempts to save the buildings were fruitless because no fire appliances were at hand, except buckets.

1901: Boyd Caldwell & Co have a staff of electricians engaged in wiring the mills and installing an electric plant.

1902: When Mr Spearman was driving from Carleton Place yesterday, his horse took suddenly sick and died on the road before assistance could be procured.

1903: The grist mill property has changed hands again, Messrs Brown and Sons having sold to Messrs Boyd Caldwell & Co.

1904: Thomas C. Arthur has sold the hotel to Wellington Spearman, the present proprietor.

1905: We are pleased to notice the name of Miss Ethel Ashman of this place at the head of the list in the Perth Model School examinations with 839 marks out of a possible 1100.

1906: Wool wanted. We are prepared to buy all

the fleece wool offered---washed or unwashed ---for which we guarantee to pay the highest market price in cash or trade. J.A.McGregor, Appleton.

1907: The box social in the hall was a very successful event. Ethel Scott had the honour of bringing the box that brought the highest price, $1.20. The hall was so crowded at supper time some people had to eat in the dressing room.

1908: The first football match of the season was played between the C.P.H.S. team and the Appleton boys, resulting in a victory for the home boys by a score of 1 to 0. Eden Hueston was an impartial referee.

1909: A bold attempt to burglarize McGregor's store resulted in the theft of a couple of pairs of boots, a hat, and some other articles, as well as all the loose change in the till.

1910: Mr T. A. Hueston, having removed permanently to Smiths Falls, advertised an auction sale of household furniture and effects here at the village.

1911: The annual picnic in connection with S.S.#11 Ramsay will be held in James Wilson's grove on Saturday. Football and baseball matches, besides the usual races by the pupils, are being arranged.

1912: A Ladies' Aid was formed with Mrs J. A. Code as president, Mrs R. Baird as treasurer, and Miss Irene Syme as secretary.

1913: William Fuller who has been in the woollen mill for the last thirteen years is leaving this week to take a position in the Tay mill at Perth.

1914: A junior choir has been organized in the Methodist Church, and the children are doing well under the organist and leader, Mrs D. Fumerton.

1915: At a meeting of the patrons of the Appleton cheese factory, Miss Maggie Wilson was appointed secretary in lieu of her father, the late James Wilson.

1916: The lawn social on St Andrew's Church lawn grounds was a decided success. The weather was fine and the attendance large. The proceeds amounted to $90.

1917: Robert Baird has sold his farm for $8.000 to a Mr Fender who has been in the West for some years.

1918: The Caldwell Woollen Mill is very busy making puttees. They send out about 1,500 a day to the women of the village to finish.

1919: The reception given for our returned soldiers was a grand success. The crowd was the largest ever seen in our beautiful little village at a social gathering. Rings and lockets were presented.

1920: Mr MacLeod has come to the village to take the position as superintendent of the Mississippi Woollen Mills.

1921: The new granolithic sidewalk is a great improvement to our street, and we hope more will be laid in the near future.

1922: Robert Aitken had the misfortune to lose four of his best milking cows. The animals were thought to have been poisoned from the lead in old paint cans which were in the pasture.

APPLETON TODAY

A paved sideroad leads east from Highway 29, passes the golf course on the right, and soon runs by the Mississippi shore.

Across the river, you see a large stone Confederation-period house with two gables along the front. This was the farmhouse of Andrew Baird, a Lanark County native who was born in 1825.

The road takes a bend to the left and a good view of the village appears.

Summerhill, a fine frame house painted white, stands on the left. It was built by William Wilson, farmer and cabinetmaker.

Up a sidestreet on the left, there is an old log house, with a log barn nearby. It is the only house showing log construction within the village proper, although you see several sheds and barns.

Then comes the home of Ed Dowdell, now 87, who has lived in Appleton nearly sixty years and knows the village history inside out. He used to farm but is now retired.

Two beautiful stone houses built by the Teskey brothers follow. The Albert Teskey house is a one-and-a-half storey stone building with a gable on the facade and prominent cut quoins. It may date from the 1860's. The log outbuildings are maintained in excellent condition. On downriver a bit stands the Robert Teskey house. It is a two-and-a-half storey stone house of rather plain style, and has three windows on the second storey facade. It was built about 1850. Originally it had an upper and lower verandah running across the front. This

house was built into a hillside so that the bedroom windows at the rear are in line with the back lawn.

Nearly opposite, in the river itself, are the remains of the Mississippi Woollen Mills, destroyed by fire in 1950. Robert Teskey built the first factory in 1862. An addition was constructed about 1880 by Adam Teskey. Most of the stone walls still stand and show the general features of the mill. The spring run-off cascades around the ruins as it tumbles over the eight-foot drop at the dam. The new mill, built on the west shore, is run by the Collies who own the old Teskey homes as well.

When you cross the bridge to the east shore, you pass the old brick store on the left. It was built by Thomas Arthur and is now operated by the Gambells. The massive front windows and double upstairs doorway make the front view unique. Inside, there is a country store atmosphere. The old pine floorboards show the wear of countless feet, and the knots rise in little bumps. Red and blue coloured glass above the door remind you of olden days.

Diagonally opposite the store is a board and batten house built by Duncan Miller, carriage manufacturer, who was born in 1831.

Across the road to the north is the United Church, built over eighty years ago. It has not been used for services in recent years, and for some time has been a private residence. An unusual tower of gray-green woodwork and shingles complement the stonework, Mrs Box has been most successful in preserving the dignity of the old building.

Next to the church is the Joseph Teskey

house, built in 1844. The style is modified Scottish Georgian. The fanlight over the front door is particularly good. A rambling verandah with white posts wraps around the front and sides. Wrought-iron surmounts a stone fence at the front, and there are lilacs and cedars nearby. A stone wing at the side used to be the kitchen and servant quarters in the old days. Carriages were kept in the spaces behind the three arched doorways of the wing. The house is now known as "Burnbank".

The road takes a hairpin turn and then finally winds its way to the Almonte-Ashton road. At the corner is the brick school S.S.#11. It was closed about three years ago, and the pupils now go to Almonte or Carleton Place. In the summer months the building becomes the Appleton museum.

Southeast of the school there is a striking log house kept in good repair.

North of the school is the stone house of the Struthers family. Robert Struthers, the original settler, came in 1830. The house, with a verandah on two sides, was possibly built about 1850. It is called "Rocky Ridge".

The people of the village of Appleton have a pride in their community. It used to be a pretty spot. It still is.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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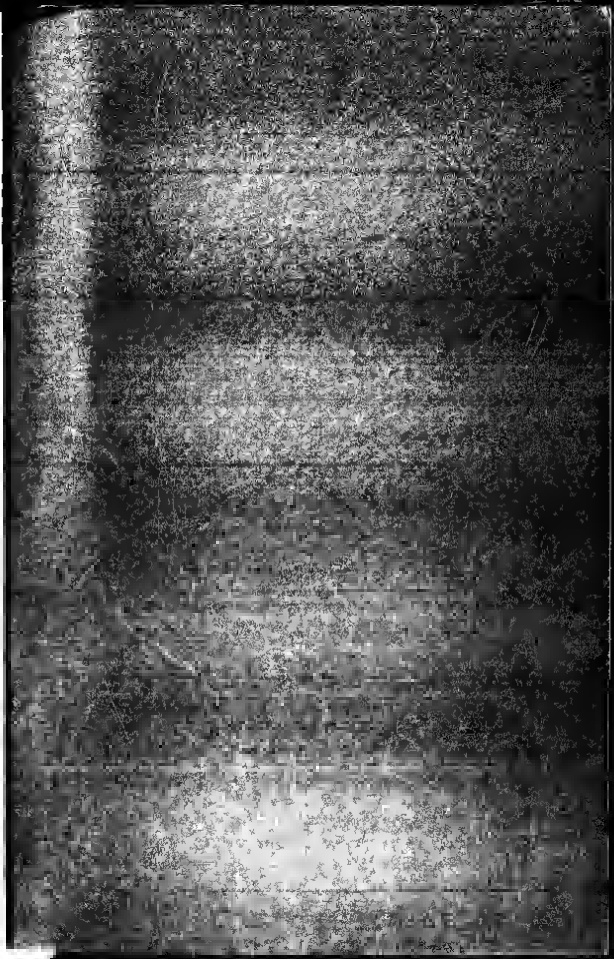

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Conclusion